



Saguaro National Park News Release

For Immediate Release

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Contacts: Saguaro East - Melanie Florez (520) 733-5153
Saguaro West - Richard Hill (520) 733-5158

April Programs Offered at Saguaro National Park

Saguaro National Park is offering special programs this spring that explore the park's wonderful natural and cultural history. Come along on a naturalist-led evening walk in the park, or join a local expert for a presentation in one of our visitor centers. *Programs are offered at both the east and west districts.* Interpretive programs are free, but park entrance fees apply. Program schedules are subject to change – call the visitor centers for schedule updates or for reservations.

Special Programs at Tucson Mountain District (Saguaro West) include:

April 2 5:15 p.m. “Silhouettes at Sundown” 2.5 miles, 3 hour hike
Trek along an arroyo as the setting sun magically silhouettes the Southwest's most famous icon – the giant saguaro. Reservations required, and can be made by calling 733-5158. **Program also offered April 9 and 16.**

April 10 3:00 p.m. “Cacti of the Desert Southwest”
Discover the enormous variety of cacti found in our region and enjoy images of their colorful flowers with guest speaker naturalist Meg Quinn from Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

National Park Week: April 18 through 24 at Saguaro NP West

In addition to regularly scheduled lectures and walks presented by park naturalists, the following special programs will be offered daily (*both are wheelchair accessible* ♿):

- A special exhibit featuring the National Parks in Arizona will be on display in the Red Hills Visitor Center.
- Think you know your National Parks? Test your knowledge in our special National Park trivia contest, each day at 11:45 am and 2:15 pm.

April 24 7:30-1:30 Junior Ranger Day Camp at Saguaro NP West
In celebration of Junior Ranger Day, a Junior Ranger program will be offered for kids 6 to 12 years old. The half-day camp includes a variety of fun, hands-on activities such as hikes, exploring the great outdoors, tracking the elusive desert tortoise, looking for awesome animals and their tracks, searching for secret stuff on a scavenger hunt, games, crafts, making fabulous friends, and just having a good time. For more detailed information, or to sign up, please contact Ranger Chip Littlefield at 733-5157, or email him at chip_littlefield@nps.gov. *As space is limited reservations are required.*

April 25 5:30 p.m. “Moon Take Night Make Day Hike” 2½ miles, 3 hours
Hikers on this gentle, relatively flat, 2½-mile hike travel up a desert wash during the transition from day to night, enjoy the sunset atop a hill, then return under the moonlight. Reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5158.

April 28 8:10 p.m. “Moonrise Over the Mountains” 45 minute patio talk
Relax around a campfire on the visitor center patio as the full moon rises above the cactus forest. Bring a lawn chair and warm clothing. No reservations required. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Special Programs offered at the Rincon Mountain District (Saguaro East) include:

April 8 7:00 p.m. “Star Party”

Join park naturalists for an introduction to astronomy and a look at the desert night sky. Telescopes and binoculars will be available. Reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

April 9 & 23 7:00 p.m. “Night Walk” 1 mile, 2 hours

Join a park naturalist for this easy 2-hour hike to explore and experience the Sonoran Desert at night. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water and a flashlight. As space is limited, reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153.

April 15 7:00 p.m. “Living With or Without Reptiles”

Join naturalist Bob Brander in the visitor center auditorium to learn about the biology of Sonoran Desert reptiles, and how we can share this desert with them. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

April 20 7:00 p.m. “Back from the Brink”

What do you mean there were grizzly bears in Arizona? Join a park ranger in the visitor center auditorium to explore the natural history of the grizzly (and two other top predators) that once roamed in what is now Saguaro National Park. We will take a look at their past, present and future status in the American Southwest. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

National Park Week: April 18 through 24 at Saguaro NP East

April 22 7:00 p.m. “50 States, 50 Parks”

In celebration of National Park Week, we'll take you on a whirlwind journey through all 50 states to visit a unit of the National Park System in each – except one. Join Park Guide Jeff Wallner to learn which state doesn't have a park system area (yet...) and to explore both world famous and lesser known sites all around the United States. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

April 24 10:00 a.m./2:00 p.m. “National Junior Rangers”

Hey, kids! Here's a chance to earn your Saguaro Junior Ranger Badge and special patches in recognition of National Junior Ranger Day! You'll spend time with Park Rangers studying the challenge of Earth's changing climate in your National Parks – with films, games and activities. There are two 1½ -hour sessions. As space is limited, call 733-5153 to make required reservations.

Daily Programs

The park's two districts offer additional daily interpretive programs not listed here. Contact either of our visitor centers for updated schedules, or visit our website online at <http://www.nps.gov/sagu/planyourvisit/things2do.htm>.

Visitor Center Locations/Phone Numbers

Both visitor centers are open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except Christmas Day.

Red Hills Visitor Center (Saguaro WEST)
2700 North Kinney Road
Tucson, AZ 85743
(520) 733-5158

Rincon Mountain Visitor Center (Saguaro EAST)
3693 South Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85730
(520) 733-5153

For more information about Saguaro National Park and some of its partners, Friends of Saguaro National Park, Western National Parks Association, and the Rincon Institute, visit these websites:

www.nps.gov/sagu
www.friendsofsaguaro.org

www.wnpa.org
www.rinconinstitute.org

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